

PATENT APP. NO. 10/058,065
ATTY. DOCKET NO. 53394.000559
RESPONSE TO MAY 18, 2005 OFFICE ACTION

II. IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) An absorbent core comprising:
a composite; and
a wrapping material substantially adjacent to at least some of the outer surface of the composite,

the absorbent core being associated with an absorbent article, wherein the absorbent core further comprises a front pad and a back pad, the front pad having an absorptive capacity of at least about 32 grams of an aqueous solution containing 1.0 weight % sodium chloride absorbed after ten minutes of contact with the aqueous solution while under a restraining pressure of about 0.5 psi;

wherein the front pad comprises a two inch diameter circle having substantially as its center the insult point of the absorbent core when the absorbent core is used in an absorbent article for the containment of body exudate discharged by the body of a wearer of the absorbent article.

2. (canceled)
3. (original) The absorbent core of claim 2, wherein the front pad has an absorptive capacity of at least about 35 grams.
4. (original) The absorbent core of claim 2, wherein the front pad has an absorptive capacity of at least about 40 grams.
5. (original) The absorbent core of claim 2, wherein the front pad has an absorptive capacity of at least about 50 grams.
6. (original) The absorbent core of claim 2, wherein the front pad has an absorptive capacity of at least about 60 grams.
7. (original) The absorbent core of claim 2, wherein the front pad has an absorptive capacity between about 32 to about 50 grams.

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8. (original) The absorbent core of claim 1, wherein the absorptive capacity of the front pad of the absorbent article differs from and is greater than the absorptive capacity of the back pad.
9. (original) The absorbent core of claim 1, wherein the composite comprises a porous fiber matrix and a superabsorbent material.
10. (original) The absorbent core of claim 1, wherein the front pad comprises an amount of superabsorbent material greater than the amount of superabsorbent material in the back pad.
11. (original) The absorbent core of claim 1, wherein the porous fiber matrix comprises wood pulp fluff.
12. (original) The absorbent core of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent material comprises natural or synthetic polymers with hydrophilic groups, sodium neutralized cross-linked polyacrylates and polysaccharides, carboxylated, phosphonoalkylated, sulfoxylated or phosphorylated cellulose, starch, and regenerated cellulose, water soluble acrylic or vinyl monomers crosslinked with a polyfunctional reactant, starch modified polyacrylic acids, hydrolyzed polyacrylonitrile and their alkali metal salts, and mixtures thereof.
13. (original) The absorbent core of claim 1, wherein the absorbent core comprises superabsorbent material in an amount of from about 35% to about 95% weight percent based on the total weight of the absorbent core.
14. (previously presented) The absorbent core of claim 1, wherein the ratio of the weight of composite in the front pad to the weight of composite in the back pad is about 2:1 to about 4:1.
15. (previously presented) An absorbent article, comprising:
a top sheet material;
a back sheet material; and
an absorbent core disposed between the top sheet material and the back sheet material;

wherein the absorbent core comprises:

a composite; and

a wrapping material substantially adjacent to at least some of the outer surface of the composite,

wherein the absorbent core further comprises a front pad and a back pad, the front pad having an absorptive capacity of at least about 32 grams of an aqueous solution containing 1.0 weight % sodium chloride absorbed after ten minutes of contact with the aqueous solution while under a restraining pressure of about 0.5 psi;

wherein the front pad comprises a two inch diameter circle having substantially as its center the insult point of the absorbent core when the absorbent core is used in an absorbent article for the containment of body exudate discharged by the body of a wearer of the absorbent article.

16. (canceled)

17. (original) The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the front pad has an absorptive capacity of at least about 35 grams.

18. (original) The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the front pad has an absorptive capacity of at least about 40 grams.

19. (original) The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the front pad has an absorptive capacity of at least about 50 grams.

20. (original) The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the front pad has an absorptive capacity of at least about 60 grams.

21. (original) The absorbent core of claim 16, wherein the front pad has an absorptive capacity between about 32 to about 50 grams.

22. (previously presented) A method of making an absorbent article, the method comprising:

preparing a top sheet material;

preparing a back sheet material;

preparing an absorbent core; and

disposing the absorbent core at least partially between the top sheet material and the back sheet;

wherein the absorbent core comprises a front pad and a back pad, the front pad having an absorptive capacity of at least about 32 grams, the absorptive capacity being the amount of an aqueous solution containing 1.0 weight % sodium chloride absorbed after ten minutes of contact with the aqueous solution while under a restraining pressure of about 0.5 psi;

wherein the front pad comprises a two inch diameter circle having substantially as its center the insult point of the absorbent core when the absorbent core is used in an absorbent article for the containment of body exudate discharged by the body of a wearer of the absorbent article.

23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) A method of making an absorbent article, the method comprising:

preparing a chassis;

preparing an absorbent core; and

operatively associating the chassis and the core,

wherein the absorbent core comprises a front pad and a back pad, the front pad having an absorptive capacity of at least about 32 grams of an aqueous solution containing 1.0 weight % sodium chloride absorbed after ten minutes of contact with the aqueous solution while under a restraining pressure of about 0.5 psi;

wherein the front pad comprises a two inch diameter circle having substantially as its center the insult point of the absorbent core when the absorbent core is used in an absorbent article for the containment of body exudate discharged by the body of a wearer of the absorbent article.

25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) A method of providing leakage protection in an absorbent article, the method comprising:

preparing a top sheet material;
preparing a back sheet material;
preparing an absorbent core; and
disposing the absorbent core at least partially between the top sheet material and the back sheet material,

wherein the absorbent core comprises a front pad and a back pad, the front pad having an absorptive capacity of at least about 32 grams of an aqueous solution containing 1.0 weight % sodium chloride absorbed after ten minutes of contact with the aqueous solution while under a restraining pressure of about 0.5 psi;

wherein the front pad comprises a two inch diameter circle having substantially as its center the insult point of the absorbent core when the absorbent core is used in an absorbent article for the containment of body exudate discharged by the body of a wearer of the absorbent article.

27. (canceled)

28. (original) A method of designing an absorbent core to provide good leakage protection, the method comprising:

preparing an absorbent core, the core comprising a composite;
determining the insult point of the absorbent core, the insult point located proximately in the area of contact of body exudate with the absorbent core when a substantially similar absorbent core is used in an absorbent article for the containment of body exudate discharged by a wearer of the absorbent article; and

varying the weight and/or composition of the composite in a front pad of the absorbent core, the front pad comprising a two inch diameter circle having substantially as its center the insult point, until the absorptive capacity of the front pad is on average at least about 32 grams of an aqueous solution containing 1.0 weight % sodium chloride absorbed after ten minutes of contact with the aqueous solution while under a restraining pressure of about 0.5 psi.

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29. (original) A method of designing an absorbent core that provides good leakage protection, the method comprising:

preparing an absorbent core, the absorbent core comprising a composite;

determining the insult point of the absorbent core, the insult point located proximately in the area of contact of body exudate with the absorbent core when a substantially similar absorbent core is used in an absorbent article for the containment of body exudate discharged by a wearer of the absorbent article;

varying the weight and/or composition of the composite in a front pad of the absorbent core, the front pad comprising a two inch diameter circle having substantially as its center the insult point, until the absorptive capacity of the front pad on average is at least about 32 grams of an aqueous solution containing 1.0 weight % sodium chloride absorbed after ten minutes of contact with the aqueous solution while under a restraining pressure of about 0.5 psi; and

determining the lowest cost absorbent core with a front pad absorptive capacity of at least about 32 grams.